



**RESEAU NATIONAL DE DÉFENSE DES DROITS HUMAINS (RNDDH)
REZO NASYONAL POU DEFANN DWA MOUN
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE NETWORK**

PRESS RELEASE

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Dispersal of a sit-in before the Ministry of Justice and Public Security: The RNDDH condemns the abusive use of force by the agents of the PNH

1. The National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH) has learned with dismay that a sit-in held on June 29, 2020, in front of the premises of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, by Nou Pap Dòmi (NPD), was dispersed with violence by officers of the National Police of Haiti (PNH).

2. The RNDDH, which arrived on the scene sometime after tear gas tubes were launched in the direction of the demonstrators, was able to note the presence of no less than three (3) specialized units of the PNH, namely the Departmental Order Maintenance Unit (UDMO), the Order Maintenance Intervention Corps (CIMO) and the Departmental Operation and Intervention Brigade (BOID).

3. According to information gathered on the spot and relayed on the airwaves of several media, about ten (10) tear gas tubes were thrown at the demonstrators.

4. The RNDDH recalls that this sit-in was launched by Nou Pap Dòmi (NDP) to denounce the trivialization of life in Haiti, given the precarious security situation. Indeed, the months of May and June 2020 were most trying for the Haitian population, with murders recorded throughout the country. The following cases can be cited as examples:

- Maxo SAUVEUR, an executive of the Directorate General of Taxes (DGI) was assassinated on May 8, 2020, at Rue Rivière, in Port-au-Prince;
- Uberman LUBIN, aka Biggy, was murdered on the evening of May 13, 2020, on Capois Street in Port au Prince. He was a rapper;
- Jean Gana JOSEPH was assassinated on May 16, 2020 in Cité Soleil. He was a political activist;

- Daniel JOSEPH was assassinated on May 20, 2020 near the old aviation runway. He was a senior police inspector;
- Thirty-four (34) people were murdered on 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 of May 2020, in Cité Soleil, La Saline, Nan Tokyo and Chancerelles, with the complicity of the authorities in power;
- Wismick ARISTIL was assassinated on May 31, 2020 in Cité Soleil. He was an agent of the PNH;
- Four (4) people were murdered on the evening of June 6, 2020 in Boden, Péguy-ville, including three (3) women;
- Joseph LAROUSSE was abducted and murdered in Cap-Haitien. His body was discovered on June 10, 2020 on the pavement. Joseph LAROUSSE was an agent of the PNH;
- Farah Martine LHÉRISSON and Lavoisier LAMOTHE, two (2) spouses were murdered on June 15, 2020 in Péguy-ville in their residence, by armed individuals ; Farah Martine LHÉRISSON was director of Collège Saint Léonard ;
- Manoune RÉGI, a fourteen (14) year old minor who lived on the streets of Cap-Haitien, was murdered on June 19, 2020. She was murdered by a security guard ;
- Fritzgérald CERISIER was murdered in the Sans Fil neighborhood on June 19, 2020. He was Deputy Commissioner of the Government to the Court of First Instance of Port-au-Prince;
- Sébastien PETIT and Nancy DORLÉANS, two (2) dancers are missing on June 23, 2020. Their charred bodies were discovered two (2) days later, on June 25, 2020, on a pile of garbage, not far from La Fourchette Restaurant, located at Boulevard 15 October, Tabarre;
- Blackson EXIMÉ, was murdered on the night of June 26-27, 2020, in the city center of Gonaives, while participating in an atmosphere Atè Plat. He was a disc jockey known as DJ Kabwa;
- Norvella BELLAMY and Daphney FILS-AIMÉ, two (2) spouses were murdered in their residence on the night of June 27-28, 2020, in Delmas 75;
- Richma was murdered on the evening of June 28, 2020 in Canapé-vert.

5. At least fifty-four (54) people were murdered in May and June 2020 alone. This is a worrying situation that requires the organization of protest movements by the Haitian population, a victim every day of acts that threaten his life. Sit-in, marches, demonstrations, reports of denunciation are all tools of protest within the reach of citizens to demand the respect of their fundamental rights.

6. The RNDDH notes that from day to day, the totalitarian desires of this de facto government

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RNDDH - Com.P/A20/N4

are becoming clearer: to hinder the enjoyment of the freedoms of expression and assembly, is to prove if necessary, that the country has changed irremediably in the dictatorship. However, while the government in power prevents the population from peaceful demonstrations, armed bandits, benefiting from its blessing, march all over the country and attack deprived neighborhoods, adding even more to the loss of lives.

7. The RNDDH recalls that the freedoms of expression and assembly are guaranteed by the Haitian Constitution in its 28 and 31 which stipulate respectively «Every Haitian has the right to express his opinions freely, in any matter by the way he chooses»; “The freedom of unarmed association and assembly for political, economic, social, cultural or other peaceful purposes is guaranteed.” These freedoms are acquired and cannot be trampled on at the foot by dictator apprentices who want at all costs to instrumentalize the police institution.

8. The RNDDH condemns the misuse of force by the agents of the PNH and encourages the Superior Council of the National Police (CSPN) to pass the formal instructions for the restoration of a safe climate in the country. In addition, the RNDDH recommends to the state authorities to do everything possible to respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Haitian people, enshrined in the country’s Constitution.

Port-au-Prince, June 29, 2020